Serial No. TBD; US National Phase of International Application No. PCT/EP2004/012671

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-17 remain in this application. Claims 1-14 have been amended to be placed in conformance with US practice. Claims 15-17 have been added.

Applicant respectfully requests that an early and favorable action on the merits be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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